

Digital redemption and new age apologies

The dust hasn't even settled from the thud of the Mueller Report landing in the AG's office, but through it Republicans and Democrats are seeing two entirely different images of the future. Being the clever political strategists they are, Democrats see opportunity while Republicans are busy looking for apologies. Neither is going to get what they want and I'll tell you why.

America's leaders no longer know how to apologize. Instead of a full-throated, whole-hearted "I'm truly sorry for X," they give us "*If I've hurt anyone with my comments...*" or "*It is regrettable that...*" Those weasel-worded statements aren't apologies. They are expressions of regret at being caught and are just crisis media advisors' ways of 'going on the record' with something innocuous that won't acknowledge guilt. In other words, they are non-apology apologies offered as something to check a box so that the offending party can 'move on' and get past the uncomfortable media attention while disavowing ownership of their actions.

Those are not the kind of apologies Republicans want from the media hit squad that has been attacking the President and roughly a hundred other people over the past three years for everything from obstructing justice to treason. No, Republicans want the real thing. They want a concise and very public admission of guilt for blatantly ignoring normal journalistic practices; for refusing to operate their institutions and companies on the basis of the presumption of innocence; for out and out attempted character assassination; and for poisoning the well of bi-partisanship and comity.

In short, the Rs want justice meted out for the WITCH HUNT and for the truly guilty to come forward and eat humble pie like a man. For those of us who've been around the corral a few times, we know that's not going to happen. It won't happen at CNN, MSNBC, the big three national broadcasters (ABC, CBS and NBC), The Washington Post, The New York Times and the smear merchants of late night TV. It just won't. That dog of fairness just won't hunt in America anymore. We've moved on, away from decency, into a digital purgatory where media transgressions (not the transgressors) go to live out their days until everyone forgets them and why they're there.

To be sure, digital video of their unconscionable accusations lives on, and it will be used by the likes of Fox News and others on the Right, but like old TV sitcom reruns, it will lose its luster when a new generation enters the scene and context goes out the window. "Who were THOSE guys? Did you get a load of their lingo and all the moralizing on drugs and sex in 'Father knows best'? What a crock!" And so history will fade until someone questions it and then revises it, whitewashing the fence that separates truth from fiction. THAT'S what the bad guys count on...Americans' short memories for anything remotely important.

So, my Republican friends, don't hold your breath waiting for the Democrats' magic media apology tour cause it aint gonna happen. Instead, make sure that you leave a trail of fact breadcrumbs that are undeniable. Document the last three years since the onset of the Trump Age. And if you need to hold hearings, okay, but remember that you're not going to win any points with the 'immoveable' voter. You will only be talking to yourselves and your base.

Democrats. We know that you know that we know you're guilty as charged. We also know that you will soon be opening the floodgates of Congressional hearings into all things Trump. The subpoena will be your sword of retribution. You will demand ten years of his tax returns and all records pertaining thereto; you will conduct public interrogations of Trump associates, Trump bankers, Trump friends and anyone that was ever been harmed by a Trump deal gone wrong. We expect you to cloak yourselves in self-righteousness and the flag all the while telling us that this man, Donald J. Trump - was and is - unfit to serve as President and that he fooled you into believing his Trump Tower of lies. He stole your vote and it's time to return America to the *real Americans* - the Democrats.

You will offer us a dozen of your candidates who will, in a dozen different ways, all apologize for America's White privilege, for slavery, for poverty and economic inequality, for gender hegemony, for racism, for bigotry and for adventurism in faraway lands. Our penance will include a promise to remove all traces of Trump from our body politic and say a collective act of contrition for soiling the environment, for embracing runaway capitalism, for male dominance of the corporate boardroom and for the unabashed repression of women and the LGBTQ et alia community. There is one thing you must be aware of, however, before you attempt to tighten the noose of disingenuousness around our necks...we will fight back and not go gentle into that good night because we know that if we don't resist you everyone will lose, including the truth.

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